

Councilwoman Connie Kepert and Councilwoman Valerie Cartright Attend Bicycle Rodeo at Brookhaven's Safety Town

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Farmingville, NY - On June 21, Brookhaven Town Councilwomen Connie Kepert (left) and Valerie M. Cartright (right) attended the Safety Town Bicycle Rodeo at the Town of Brookhaven's Holtsville Ecology Center located at 249 Buckley Road in Holtsville. Councilwoman Kepert, working through Congressman Tim Bishop's office, helped to secure grant funding to create Safety Town in 2003. Safety Town is a miniature replica of a village where school children are instructed in pedestrian and bicycle safety. Also pictured are Corey Josiah Skelton and Deputy Sheriff Villani.

Saturday's program was hosted Town's Highway Department Traffic Safety and Street Lighting Division along with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office STOPPED program. It was made possible from a grant provided by Governor Cuomo's Traffic Safety Committee to fund road safety for children. Participants received a free bike inspection and helmets on a first come first served basis. They were also given a demonstration on an obstacle course that taught them the importance of obeying traffic signals and about the role they play in keeping bicyclists safe. Both Councilwomen Kepert and Cartright were pleased with the turn out.

Councilwoman Kepert praised the Highway Department on the success of the program saying, "This is a great event and the Highway Department does an outstanding job every year. It is so important that children are taught bicycle safety at an early age and I urge parents to take advantage of the next Bicycle Rodeo coming in August"

Councilwoman Cartright stated "This was an excellent educational and recreational event for the children. They had an opportunity to learn bicycle safety while enjoying the beautiful weather. As I looked around Safety Town, I witnessed how engaged and receptive the children were to learning about how to ride safely. This was truly an invaluable experience for all that attended."

According to a 10-year analysis of bicycle accidents in Nassau County, a Safety Town-graduate was more than 10 times less likely to be involved in a bike accident than a child who did not receive any training at Safety Town.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

One Independence Hill • Farmingville • NY 11738 • Phone (631) 451-6595 • Fax (631) 451-6258